Dan Brown's Coin Shop, Inc.

Professional Numismatists

PHONE 303 244-7222
1532 BROADWAY
DENVER, COLORADO 80202

Aug 5, 19[illegible]

Mr. Eric P. Newman
[illegible] Cecil Ave.
St. Louis 5, Mo.

Dear Eric:

I am sending on to you today the gold ingot that I mentioned to you sometime back. I think you will find it quite interesting, and I'll try to enclose as much of the history as I can either with this letter, or with the ingot.

When I originally bought this the party traded it in for U.S. gold at slightly more than the gold value of the ingot. I sold it to Kenyon Painter of Phoenix, Arizona. He did quite a bit of research on it, and later when he sold his Pioneer collection he sold me back this ingot. I have had it since that time -- approximately the last 6 or 7 years. I did offer it for sale at the 1963 Convention at $10,000.00; had a couple of people interested, but they did not buy it. And since that time I have been in correspondence with Ronnie Carr, and here is what he says to do with it:

Quoting from Ronnie Carr: I would be a good idea to display it at several of the big conventions and get it known. From there put it up for sale in a big auction with a minimum price of approximately $25,000.00 on it. It could be something that one of the big families of the country would like to buy as a tax deduction purpose when the time came. End of quote.

In my own mind I believe it is rather unique. From what Kenyon Painter told me at various times, it's the only one that has been heard of that has not been melted up. As I recall they made them in $50, $100, $150, $200 and $250 with a rumor (but none ever having been seen) of a $500 one. So this is actually the biggest that has ever been made according to records, or hearsay.

Take all the time you want in looking it over, having fun with it. If you should wish to write Kenyon Painter, Ronnie Carr or anyone else, feel free to do so, and let me know your thoughts later. In regards to Paul Garland I'll write you another letter next week.

Cordially yours,

Dan

DAN BROWN
ANA LIFE MEMBER NO. 215
MEMBER PNG NO. 2

DON BROWN
ANA MEMBER NO. 42972

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P.S. I am enclosing a letter sent to Mr. Sol Kaplan some years back when he thought he might have a customer for it, describing it and things of that nature. Also, it is in the bag in which I received it, and which I am sending along with my note to Sol. With this letter I am enclosing copies from the United States Mint Report of I believe 1852, which Stack's was kind enough to copy for me and which might be of interest in helping to check this item. Kenyon Painter mentioned these pages of the book to me, but I have not been able to get ahold of the book; hence the copies.

Cordially yours,

DE/q

Enclosures

Dan Brown's Coin Shop, Inc.

Professional Numismatists

PHONE 303 244-7222
1532 BROADWAY
DENVER, COLORADO 80202

June 17, 1978

Mr. Eric P. Newman
8150 Cecil Ave.
St. Louis 5, Mo.

Dear Eric:

Received your nice letter of the 14th, and as you say it is very interesting exchanging views, and we don't really see things too far different. My thoughts are: if there is something bad going on to expose it, but make sure that it really is bad. If it is a matter of opinion between people without any definite proof, or that conflicting thoughts and nothing definite settled, then it shouldn't be publicized until a definite proof is established. And that is what I feel so far on the Garland case. You, and your Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society on one side, John Ford and his group of experts on the other.

The Committee really didn't come to a real conclusion. I have heard rumors that not only did they say it was not Proof-like, which gave Garland his award, but that the committee was divided on whether it was a genuine coin or not. But, this has not come into the open; therefore it cannot be brought out.

If Paul Franklin actually manufactured these various items, then I feel that he should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. But, then again, if the items are genuine, then what is the fuss about? So far, there is no definite proof either way as far as I know.

You asked me about asking my members what transactions or negotiations they have had with Franklin relative to pioneer gold. I think this should go through Joe Schwartz, our Executive Secretary, rather than me, as we'll be stepping on private transactions that wasn't none of our business and create ill-will in our organization -- at least at the present time. Again, if they turned out to be spurious, then we could go further. But, there has not been a ruling as far as I know on that, and anything that might involve legalities -- frankly, I am keeping away from. We have an Executive Secretary that are-

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DON BROWN
ANA MEMBER NO. 42972

thing can go to first, and then to me with his opinion.

I have glanced at the Arbitration File, but have not tried to read it. Max Schwartz has digested it and spent many an hour doing so, plus a tremendous amount of time. So, although we have donated cash, we also have donated much of his time, which is fairly valuable in trying to end the Garland-Ryan mess. As for the authenticity, I don't know what he has in regards to that. But, I would say: if you wish to find out, drop him a line and mention that I suggested that you check with him.

Did my ingot arrive? I'm not worried about it; you can keep it as long as you wish. The only thing is, it wasn't mentioned in your letter and I just wanted to make sure that it got to you. If not, I'll put a tracer on it through the postoffice. On that, I'm sure there is no skulduggery at work; as I mentioned, I bought it at approximate gold value to begin with. Also, if you should wish to know any further information about it, Kenyon Painter should be able to tell you quite a bit, and possibly Ronnie Carr as we are in correspondence with him, and I believe Kenyon Painter checked with him in regards to it at various times. 'Bye for now.

Very cordially yours,

Dan

DB/g

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

May 20, 1968

Mr. Dan Brown
1532 Broadway
Denver, Colo. 80202

Dear Dan:

The Coloma ingot has been studied for a while and is fascinating. Thank you for sending it.

A few preliminary questions arise which you can answer and which will be helpful.

1. Have photographs of the piece been taken?

2. Has the metallic content been tested by non-destructive analysis or by wet sampling?

3. Who is Judge Allen and is an internal cast, a photo, or the provenance of his crucible available?

4. Exactly what year did you acquire the ingot and when did you sell it to Mr. Painter? When did you buy it back from Mr. Painter?

5. Do you know Mr. Painter's residence telephone number and address? What is the address and telephone number of his place of business?

The photocopy of the pages you sent is returned herewith. It is from Eckfeldt and DuBois, New Varieties of Gold and Silver Coins, 2nd edition (1851) and 3rd edition (1852).

May we hear from you.

Kindest regards,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

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ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

May 20, 1968

Mr. Kenyon V. Painter
P.O.Box 865
Phoenix, Arizona 85001

Dear Mr. Painter:

Our mutual friend, Dan Brown, has submitted to us for study his Coloma, Calif. 17 oz. 2 dwt 22 carat gold ingot which he indicates you once owned and which you researched. He suggested that we are free to contact you on the matter and I wonder if you would send your telephone number so that I may call you. It would simplify matters considerably. The Brown ingot is not being offered to us for sale and we are merely looking into it at his request.

You may be interested in knowing also that Coin World is about to publish the arbitrators decision in the two year litigation on the 1853 $20 USAOG matter with which you are no doubt familiar. You may or may not know of our work in that regard.

May we hear from you.

Sincerely,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
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PHONE 303 244-7222
1532 BROADWAY
DENVER, COLORADO 80202

May 22, 19[illegible]

Mr. Eric Newman
[illegible] Quail Ave.
St. Louis 5, Mo.

Dear Eric:

Just received your nice letter of the 20th, and I will try to answer the various questions to the best of my knowledge in regards to the Colony ingot.

1. I have never had photographs of the ingot taken; possibly Kenyon Painter has.
2. I have not had the metallic content tested in any way.
3. Judge Allen owns the crucible that this was poured into when it was made according to what we have been able to find out.
4. I do not know exactly what year I acquired the ingot; I would say possibly 1956 to 1958. I sold it to Mr. Painter the same year, and probably bought it back from Mr. Painter about 1961. It could be checked out as I do keep check records and things of that nature for quite a number of years, but it would be exceedingly hard to do so. It might be possible to get this information from Mr. Painter much easier than I could supply it.
5. Mr. Painter's resident telephone I believe is 947 3[illegible]. This would be his home telephone. If you really wish to get in touch with him by phone call Don Sherer in Phoenix who will have his business phone, as well as his residence phone.

Feel free to contact Kenyon on any phase or thought that you wish to know in regards to the ingot. He knows much more about it than I do, and you might mention that I suggested that you call him asking for the information, or if you wish to prefer to write. He also told me the book that these ingots were mentioned in, and although I could not find the book to buy, he

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could not find his copy -- Stack's kindly photo copied these pages for me according to instructions from Mr. Painter.

Again, if I can help you any further in any way in regards to the study of it, please let me know. But, I think your contacting Kenyon Painter would be much more beneficial.

Very cordially yours,

Dan

DP/g

I telephoned Mr. Kenyon Painter, in Phoenix, Arizona, phone: 602 947 3489. He told me he knew me. He stated that he still collected coins and had a nice library but that he sold his Pioneer gold collection because he had too much money invested in it.

He told me that the gold ingot from Coloma was purchased by him in Denver at the office of Dan Brown. He said that Dan Brown had turned down the piece and that he then bought it for about $100.00 over its gold value. He said there were two pieces found at the same time; that it was bought from a German and that a Japanese man was also involved and that it was bought somewhere around ten years ago. He said he would write me a letter that he thought it was genuine.

He told me he had a crucible which was given to him by John Ford. He said I could have it as he had no use for it.

I then asked him what he knew about the US Assay Office $20 pieces of 1853 and he said that in his opinion there was no press in America at the time able to produce as bright a piece as the group which were under controversy. He told me that Ford had offered the group to him at one time but that he turned them down. He indicated that in his opinion they were bad but that he did not want to get sued and was not going to say much.

He then told me that John Ford had bought the Assay Office equipment, including dies and punches, which had belonged to J.J.Ott, assayer, who operated in Nevada City, Nevada County, California. He said these were bought from the family of Mr. Ott about 1957. He said that he had been to Nevada City and that the museum curator, across the street from the family, was fully familiar with many of

the details. He told me there was more than one Ott bar. He said that Kosoff, Carr, and a number of others were fully familiar with the fact that Ford had bought the Assay Office equipment and that many of the coins were false.

I asked him what he thought of the Blake circular pieces and he told me he thought they were bad and that he had a Blake silver bar. He then asked me whether I was familiar with a $50 round U.S.Assay Office piece and I asked him whether this was the onethat was made from the modification of the $20 die. He indicated that the round $50 was bad. He then went on to say that all of these various discoveries to have been found by Ford was an impossibility.

He asked me if I knew Franklin was a metallurgist and I said that I had been told so. I asked him if had seen Franklin and he said that he would not have anything more to do with him and had not seen him in quite a while. He said now you can see the reason why I got out of Pioneer gold.

He told me further that the Templeton Reid piece pictured in black and white in the Western Brand book was taken of a gold one which was not genuine. I asked him where they came from and he told me that Bullowa had gotten the Nagy material and that Ford,Merkin and Stack all had participated in the handling of it.

He then told me that there was a book written by Dr.Russell H. Rentz, of Detroit, on Pioneer gold, and I said I had never heard of it. He said this is the man who made the false $16 ingots. I asked him if the doctor was a dentist and he said yes. I asked to

borrow the book written by Dr. Rentz and he told me he did not lend books from his library but that he would show it to me if I visited him. I told him I might visit him but I would talk to him first, after I digested all of the material which we discussed.

I suggested that in some way he contact the museum curator in Nevada City in order to obtain the information he had on Ott.

I asked him who Judge Allen was as he was supposed to have a crucible in which the Coloma ingot was cast. He said he did not know.

He said there was a group of Massachusetts Company and California Company pieces which were bad.

He told me that Mr. Murrell had sold his Pioneer gold to Mr. Clifford.

He also told me that he sold his Pioneer collection to Kosoff and that Kosoff had resold it.

I thanked him for being so open with me and assured him that my interest was for research purposes.

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

5/22/68

Painter paid $100 over gold weight
bot from German
who was on American River
bot in Brown shop after
2 pieces found at same time
bought about 10 yr ago

$20 US AOG struck in Germany

Crucible given to Painter by John Ford

John bought an assay office
[illegible] J. J. Ott Assayer
from family Nevada City, Calif
1957 spoke to family — Museum [illegible]

Said press used for $20 US AOG was
too powerful for U.S.A.

More than one Ott bar

$25.00 in black + white Templeton Reid
western Ordnance book
[illegible] gold one

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] Moffat [illegible] made [illegible] Russell [illegible] (dentist) [illegible]
[illegible]

FORM 8105

June 5,1968

MEMORANDUM

TO Dan Brown

FROM Eric P. Newman Num.Ed.Soc.

The date and circumstances of the ~~xxxxxxxxx~~ acquisition of the Coloma bar might be important and clearing up some conflicting details will be helpful.

You said that you gave the owner the equivalent of gold value in gold coins and only a small premium and then sold it to Painter. Do you have a check for the transaction or not? Painter says he was in your shop at the time the transaction took place and that he recalls that you turned it down and that he bought it in the first instance. He indicates he paid just a little over its gold value. Was there any time between your acquisition of it and your sale to Painter or is he correct. Can you clarify what took place , particularly the date of the event.

Also it would be helpful to furnish the date and price of your repurchase of the item from Painter.

Your continued cooperation will be most appreciated.

Sincerely,

Dan Brown's Coin Shop, Inc.

Professional Numismatists

PHONE 303 244-7222
1532 BROADWAY
DENVER, COLORADO 80202

June 7, 19[illegible]

Mr. Eric [illegible]
[illegible] Washington Ave.
[illegible]
St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Eric:

Received your nice letter of the 5th, and I'll do what I can towards clearing up your questions. But, I don't if I can come up too successfully.

I gave the owner of the gold input an allowance of $550.00 in trade for it. I sold it very cheaply thereafter to Kenyon Painter for $1,[illegible] or possibly $1,[illegible]. This I would guess at the year 19[illegible] or 19[illegible]. [illegible] customer took the owner out in trade on gold coins which I had purchased recently, there is no check for the transaction. But, Kenyon Painter did send a check for his purchase, so he paid quite a bit over the gold value, as mentioned, and I really can't remember how long it was between the acquisition of the piece, and the sale to Painter -- but I would say not even a week or two.

I re-purchased the item from Kenyon Painter approximately 19[illegible] or 19[illegible]. It could be neither hard to get the exact date as I'd have to go through my books mostly by month to check on [illegible]. I paid him $1,[illegible] for the input body in other words a profit over what he paid. I kept it without showing it until 19[illegible] [illegible] Convention here in Denver, at which time I did offer it for sale without any [illegible]. But, as to the exact dates of the various transactions -- it could be looked up, but would be exceedingly hard to do so.

If you really wish for me to delve further I will try to do so in the

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next couple of months. First, we are quite busy here at the store now that my son has left the business; my daughter is coming for a month visit in the next week or so, and we do seem to keep very busy socially. If you deem it absolutely necessary for your information, I will try to do it -- or have my wife do it.

Cordially yours,

Dan

DB/g

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

June 14,1968

Mr. Sven Skaar
N.Bloomfield Road
Nevada City , Calif.

916 265 4116

Dear Mr. Skaar:

It was very pleasant talking to you today and I am so glad that you are willing to be helpful in helping to obtain certain details about J.J.Ott. I had not realized that he was the nephew of John Sutter. That makes his assay office operation even more interesting. I certainly hope that the State of California will repair the Assay Office.

I would be interested in your help in finding out:

1. The date of the death of Emile Ott, son of J.J.Ott (died 1907)
2. Whether there were any letter or number punches in the effects of Emile Ott from the Assay Office. (died 1953)
3. Whether there were any coining dies in the effects.
4. Whether any of the punches or dies were sold and if so when and to whom.

(I understand that you believe this information can be obtained from Mrs. Arthur Hoge, the daughter of Emile Ott who lives in Nevada City.)

As to your writing on the subject of J.J.Ott would it be possible for you to obtain a copy of the article you wrote for the Nevada County Historical Society and also the articles about Ott which were published in the Daily Union of Grass Valley, Nevada County and were written by you. If originals cannot be obtained we can borrow them and have photocopies made and return them.

Your cooperation will be very much appreciated. For the present I will not contact Mrs. Hoge or her brother Emile in Sacramento until I hear from you. Since you are friends of theirs I am sure that you will have no trouble obtaining the information requested.

Thank you for your courtesies,

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

n/epn

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PHONE 303 244-7222
1532 BROADWAY
DENVER, COLORADO 80202

April 3, 1969

Mr. Eric Newman
P.O. Box 14020
St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Eric:

Was just wondering how you were coming along with the gold ingot, and what your thoughts are regarding it?

I don't know for sure, but I might decide to display this at the A N A, so I would appreciate hearing anything that you can tell about it.

Do hope this finds you and yours enjoying the very best of health, as we are here, and with every best wish.

Cordially yours,

Dan

DB/q

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BILL NAKAMOTO
204 SOUTH MULLEN
LAMAR, COLORADO
COLOMA INGOT
OBTAINED INGOT FROM MR. SCHNEIDER IN 1927.
MR. SCHNEIDER WAS A GERMAN MINER WHO
WORKED WITH LEE CHUNG AROUND MT. OPHIR.

Dan Brown's Coin Shop, Inc.

Professional Numismatists

PHONE 303 244-7222
1532 BROADWAY
DENVER, COLORADO 80202

October 8, 1968

Mr. Eric T. Newman
6450 Cecil Ave.
St. Louis 5, Mo.

Dear Eric:

Received your nice letter of the 7th, and as always it is a pleasure hearing from you.

No hurry on the ingot; I was just wondering what you had found in regards to it and what your opinion was. I note that information from NNS members seems to be coming in slowly. We must remember that they are all individuals, busy with their own work in many cases and may not have the time or the opportunity to answer immediately. I do try to be just the opposite and answer as soon as possible. But, with Don gone even this becomes a problem at times; although I have kept up so far by working both day and night, which I don't like.

Glad you had a nice vacation here in Colorado. Too bad you didn't get near Denver; it would have been nice to have seen you here and shown you a little hospitality in our part of the country. Bye for now.

Cordially yours,

Don

DB/R

DAN BROWN
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ANA MEMBER NO. 42972

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

April 23, 1969

Mr. Dan Brown
Dan Brown's Coin Shop, Inc.
1532 Broadway
Denver, Colorado 80202

Dear Dan:

The gold Coloma Ingot which you sent us for our opinion is quite a mystery to try to untangle. It apparently has never been documented. No other Coloma ingot is known so far as we know and we find no mention in source material of this type of item.

Your ingot appears to be a crucible casting, irregularly round in plan. Its bottom is generally convex and its top is generally flat. Its greatest diameter is 6.5 cm. but most other diameters are 5 to 5.5. cm. Its maximum height is about 2 cm.

On its topside the incuse text reads:

COLOMA.
CAL.
1850. 22.C
CARAT
GOLD

The incuse text on its bottom reads:

OZS.	DWT.	GRS.	22C
17	2		CAL. 22C
			1850

The incuse text on its edge reads:

.INGOT.

All letters, numbers and periods are individually punched into the metal. All letters are about 6 mm. high. All numerals are about 4 mm. high except the first 22 on the bottom

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which is of the 6 mm. height. All letters and numbers are very clear and carefully punched.

The natural casting roughness is very evident on the bottom and on the edge but the top has been polished chiefly in the central area.

According to your information, you acquired this piece between 1956 and 1958 when a Japanese person, unknown to you, came to your Denver store with it in a leather pouch; you obtained it for a number of $20 U.S. gold pieces of equivalent weight plus a premium of about $100 worth of them. It was promptly sold by you to Kenyon Painter, then a Phoenix collector of pioneer gold, for $1250.

A piece of notebook paper sent us with the ingot had typewritten upon it in modern type:

"Bill Nakamoto
204 South Mullen
Lamar, Colorado
Coloma Ingot
Obtained ingot from Mr.Schneider in 1927.
Mr. Schneider was a German miner who worked with
Lee Chung around Mt. Ophir."

Kenyon Painter advised us that this ingot and another one were found at the same time. You stated that this ingot was found by an old carpenter in 1929 in wrecking a saloon in Coloma; that it was given to a Japanese friend of the carpenter just before the carpenter died. You state that Judge Allen, who resided in Tulare, California, has the crucible in which this ingot was made.

Kenyon Painter sold the ingot back to you about 1961 or 1962 for $1500 when he sold his entire pioneer gold collection to Abe Kosoff.

Page 3 April 23, 1969
Mr. Dan Brown
Dan Brown's Coin Shop, Inc.

You offered the ingot for sale in 1963 for $10,000 and also requested an opinion from Sol Kaplan. You suggested to Kaplan that Judge Allen would permit a wax mold to be made of the crucible which was used to cast the ingot. No facts obtained by or opinion of Sol Kaplan have been furnished us.

We have been advised that the Assay Office equipment of J. J. Ott of Nevada City, California, was sold shortly before this piece was acquired by you and that the Assay Office included punches, crucibles and other metallurgical equipment. Whether or not Judge Allen may have obtained his crucible from the purchasers of the Ott equipment we do not know.

We have not attempted to trace the background of or interview Bill Nakamoto, Schneider, Allen, Lee Chung, as we assume this would have been done by you or those you asked if it could have been done readily. We had hoped to receive from others information which we felt would be helpful. We had hoped to compare the punches used on this piece with punches used on other pieces alleged to have been made in the pioneer period. For one reason or another this information and data has not been forthcoming after timely requests.

We are therefore pointing out to you from the piece itself, things which may constitute challenges to authenticity.

1. The word INGOT is stamped on the piece and we see no purpose whatsoever for an assayer to do so. This seems artificial.

2. An irregular piece of this nature would have no protection from shaving, gouging, clipping, or polishing in certain areas and therefore its weight marking would not have effectiveness or reliability.

3. There is no name of the assayer on the piece and without the assayer's name the fineness and weight would not give commercial assurance or to whom one would look for recourse.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

 April 23, 1969

Mr. Dan Brown
Dan Brown's Coin Shop, Inc.

4. The spelling out in full of CARAT GOLD on the flat side when it is abbreviated as C on both sides seems to be gilding the lily. It does not seem normal.

5. The letters and numbers are punched in too carefully to be a normal item.

6. Anyone knowing COLOMA would not also need CAL on each side.

7. The existence of the crucible in which this piece was allegedly cast would "cast" doubt on the 1850 origin because the chances of the identical crucible being preserved would be minimal.

We are sorry not to be able to give you a stronger specific opinion, but we are lacking so many facts. We can only say that we have little confidence in the piece being genuine. If it is not genuine we would guess that it was sold at a nominal cost as a setup to sell the second piece which was supposed to accompany it. If you know or can learn any more about the piece please let us know.

You indicated you might display it at the Philadelphia A.N.A. I would not do so as it might be seized and held by the government as an unlicensed gold bar (whether good or bad) as other purported pioneer pieces have been.

We will continue to study it and if you want it back at any time just advise us.

We appreciate your confidence in us in asking for our opinion and we hope we have been of service.

Kindest personal regards and respect,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

By Eric P. Newman
Eric P. Newman, President

EPN
atb

Dan Brown's Coin Shop, Inc.

Professional Numismatists

PHONE 303 244-7222
1532 BROADWAY
DENVER, COLORADO 80202

May 7, 1969

Mr. Eric Newman
400 Washington Ave.
P.O. Box 14020
St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Eric:

Received your nice letter of the 22nd, and thank you for the same. It looks like my Coloma Ingot is still a mystery.

You have gone through considerable work and effort it seems to identify this; hope it hasn't taken too much of your time, but that it may have been a little fun for you. Many of these things are lost in antiquity with no record, and which makes it rather hard for us people in later years to try to determine just what it is.

To clear up this Mr. Bill Nakamoto and the piece of notebook paper with his name on it, I had this typed up for my own information; hence it being modern. The rest of the story you have, with being found in a saloon in 1929 by this Mr. Schneider; Mr. Nakamoto taking care of Mr. Schneider in his last days, and being given the ingot. I have not tried to trace the background of Bill Nakamoto, other than that he was a displaced Japanese person sent to Colorado after Pearl Harbor. He lived in Lamar and was highly respected in his job as an electrician for over twenty years, until he decided to return back to California. Schneider, Allen and Lee Chung -- I know nothing about at all.

Hope my continuity is straight; I was at the end of this dictating tape, started a new one after waiting on a couple of customers.

Your seven items mentioned are quite interesting, and all seem to deal with the fact that it is not authentic. Of course, there is nothing to substantiate this, other than your thoughts with what research you were able to do. My thoughts are entirely the opposite. There is no reason for this piece to be faked. According to my talks with Kenyon Painter years ago - and as I can remember them, the lettering was of different

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MEMBER PNG NO. 2

DON BROWN
ANA MEMBER NO. 42972

type than what has been used for a great many years. The wording - as you mention - did not seem to be right, but this ingot had been made back in 1850, and whoever it was made for, could have punched all this on the ingot. Could a spectograph determine the age of the ingot? Also, I imagine you have been in correspondence with Kenyon Painter, who did do quite a bit of research, and it entirely satisfied him that it was genuine; at least I have never heard anything different from him.

Again, getting back to the way that I bought it: I had some very choice gold coins that would fit into Mr. Nakamoto's collection; whereas this ingot was just something he didn't know about, either. According to my recollection, I allowed him $500.00 or thereabouts in trade on coins that I had just purchased, and which I was making a profit on. He knew nothing at all about a second ingot, and if he had wanted to come out ahead, he could have sold the ingot for the gold value and bought the coins from me cheaper. So, I am sure there was no intent on his part to do anything other than get rid of an item that did not fit into his collection, in order to get items that would. If he had come in with a big story about how rare it was, wanting over the gold value -- then I could see where it could have been fabricated. But, when I got it for less than the gold value there was no reason for anything but the truth from him.

I am in no big hurry for the ingot; would appreciate getting it back of course, but if you feel that you can do more in research on it, keep it a short time longer. Hope you are having fun trying to work it out.

Again, thinking of my talks with Kenyon Painter: he mentioned that in a book published in 1852 dealing with United States Treasury Report, that these ingots were mentioned, and the fact that they were made in different amounts - of #50, #100, #150, #200, #250 dollar ingots, and a #500 dollar one, although the $500 seemed to be something unusual -- if made at all. But, these others were all mentioned.

Very cordially yours,

Dan

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

August 18, 1969

Mr. Dan Brown
1532 Broadway
Denver, Colorado 80202

Dear Dan:

There was delivered to you, in person, at the Philadelphia American Numismatic Association convention, the Coloma gold ingot which you asked us to have studied. You already have our thoughts in the matter. You asked at that time whether the matter was discussed with Kenyon Painter, and I wanted to assure you that it has been.

We are returning with this letter the Nakamota memorandum and the letter to Sol Kaplan dated April 30, 1963.

The letter punches used in making the ingot should be compared with the letter punches used in making some of the items in the Lilly collection. We have not been able to accomplish that as yet although we have made many requests.

We hope we have been of service.

Sincerely yours,

Eric

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

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OF COINS, CURRENCY AND HISTORIC OBJECTS

Dan Brown's Coin Shop, Inc.

Professional Numismatists

PHONE 303 244-7222
1532 BROADWAY
DENVER, COLORADO 80202

September 3, 1969

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Ave.
St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Eric:

Received your nice letter of August 18th, and thanks for the same. We just arrived home, as after Philadelphia we went to New York, Maine, Montreal and arrived home finally early Sunday morning.

Congratulations to you on the Farranzerbe Award. I think it is a wonderful thing, and of course the very highest honor that the A N A can bestow upon you.

Thanks for your thoughts in regards to the ingot. If you should come up with anything further, it will be interesting to hear accordingly. Also, if you should need the ingot again, let me know and I'll be glad to send it on back to you.

As you know my thoughts are that there is no reason for it to be anything but genuine, and I hope that it works out that way. It is an interesting piece and possibly one of the only ones of its kind from that district and period.

Cordially yours,

Dan

DB/dg

DAN BROWN
ANA LIFE MEMBER NO. 215
MEMBER PNG NO. 2

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DON BROWN
ANA MEMBER NO. 42972

September [illegible], 1969

Mr. Dan Brown
Dan Brown's Coin Shop, Inc.
1532 Broadway
Denver, Colorado 80202

Dear Dan:

You were very nice to congratulate me on the Farran Zerbe award. It will always mean a great deal to me and numismatics has always given to me much more than I give to it.

I am glad you had a nice trip, after the convention, and was sorry to see you step down as President of PNG.

Your ingot will not be forgotten and in the event any clues come up either way it will be worked on again.

I am still sorry I did not go to see your son, when I was in Alaska this summer, as I did not know he was there at the time.

Please give my kindest regards to your wife.

Cordially,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

ENN/atb

Dan Brown's Coin Shop, Inc.

Professional Numismatists

PHONE 303 244-7222
1532 BROADWAY
DENVER, COLORADO 80202

September 19, 1969

Mr. Eric T. Newman
8450 Cecil Ave.
St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Eric:

Received your very nice letter of the 8th and a pleasure hearing from you as always.

I am sure that having the Farran Zerbe Award will be one of the highlights of your coin collecting life. After all, where can you go from here! But, I'm sure there will be something that will keep you interested and active in numismatics.

As for stepping down as president of the ANS, don't be sorry; I'm glad. It was a good experience, enjoyed it, didn't try to set the world on fire, but I did manage to get harmonious relations back with the ANA. We have created a better image than we have in the past -- at least I hope so. We've had our little problems in the organization and out, but cleared everything up. So, all in all it was just a good two years of no big problems either way. Increased our membership and left with money in the treasury. What more can a person do! Especially when you're working with a bunch of individuals, each one their own independent boss and they do as they want to a great extent.

If anything should come up on the ingot, keep me in mind. It will always be a pleasure to hear, and find out just what is what on it. If at any time you should wish to re-examine it just let me know and I'll be glad to return it to you.

Very cordially yours,

Don

db/dg

DAN BROWN
ANA LIFE MEMBER NO. 215
MEMBER PNG NO. 2

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DON BROWN
ANA MEMBER NO. 42972

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

April 23, 1969

Mr. Dan Brown
Dan Brown's Coin Shop, Inc.
1532 Broadway
Denver, Colorado 80202

Dear Dan:

The gold Coloma Ingot which you sent us for our opinion is quite a mystery to try to untangle. It apparently has never been documented. No other Coloma ingot is known so far as we know and we find no mention in source material of this type of item.

Your ingot appears to be a crucible casting, irregularly round in plan. Its bottom is generally convex and its top is generally flat. Its greatest diameter is 6.5 cm. but most other diameters are 5 to 5.5. cm. Its maximum height is about 2 cm.

On its topside the incuse text reads:

COLOMA.
CAL.
1850. 22.C
CARAT
GOLD

The incuse text on its bottom reads:

OZS.	DWT.	GRS.	22C	
17	2		CAL.	22C
			1850	

The incuse text on its edge reads:

.INGOT.

All letters, numbers and periods are individually punched into the metal. All letters are about 6 mm. high. All numerals are about 4 mm. high except the first 22 on the bottom

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which is of the 6 mm. height. All letters and numbers are very clear and carefully punched.

The natural casting roughness is very evident on the bottom and on the edge but the top has been polished chiefly in the central area.

According to your information, you acquired this piece between 1956 and 1958 when a Japanese person, unknown to you, came to your Denver store with it in a leather pouch; you obtained it for a number of $20 U.S. gold pieces of equivalent weight plus a premium of about $100 worth of them. It was promptly sold by you to Kenyon Painter, then a Phoenix collector of pioneer gold, for $1250.

A piece of notebook paper sent us with the ingot had typewritten upon it in modern type:

"Bill Nakamoto
204 South Mullen
Lamar, Colorado
Coloma Ingot
Obtained ingot from Mr.Schneider in 1927.
Mr. Schneider was a German miner who worked with
Lee Chung around Mt. Ophir."

Kenyon Painter advised us that this ingot and another one were found at the same time. You stated that this ingot was found by an old carpenter in 1929 in wrecking a saloon in Coloma; that it was given to a Japanese friend of the carpenter just before the carpenter died. You state that Judge Allen, who resided in Tulare, California, has the crucible in which this ingot was made.

Kenyon Painter sold the ingot back to you about 1961 or 1962 for $1500 when he sold his entire pioneer gold collection to Abe Kosoff.

Mr. Dan Brown
Dan Brown's Coin Shop, Inc.

You offered the ingot for sale in 1963 for $10,000 and also requested an opinion from Sol Kaplan. You suggested to Kaplan that Judge Allen would permit a wax mold to be made of the crucible which was used to cast the ingot. No facts obtained by or opinion of Sol Kaplan have been furnished us.

We have been advised that the Assay Office equipment of J. J. Ott of Nevada City, California, was sold shortly before this piece was acquired by you and that the Assay Office included punches, crucibles and other metallurgical equipment. Whether or not Judge Allen may have obtained his crucible from the purchasers of the Ott equipment we do not know.

We have not attempted to trace the background of or interview Bill Nakamoto, Schneider, Allen, Lee Chung, as we assume this would have been done by you or those you asked if it could have been done readily. We had hoped to receive from others information which we felt would be helpful. We had hoped to compare the punches used on this piece with punches used on other pieces alleged to have been made in the pioneer period. For one reason or another this information and data has not been forthcoming after timely requests.

We are therefore pointing out to you from the piece itself, things which may constitute challenges to authenticity.

1. The word INGOT is stamped on the piece and we see no purpose whatsoever for an assayer to do so. This seems artificial.

2. An irregular piece of this nature would have no protection from shaving, gouging, clipping, or polishing in certain areas and therefore its weight marking would not have effectiveness or reliability.

3. There is no name of the assayer on the piece and without the assayer's name the fineness and weight would not give commercial assurance or to whom one would look for recourse.

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6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

 April 23, 1969

Mr. Dan Brown
Dan Brown's Coin Shop, Inc.

4. The spelling out in full of CARAT GOLD on the flat side when it is abbreviated as C on both sides seems to be gilding the lily. It does not seem normal.

5. The letters and numbers are punched in too carefully to be a normal item.

6. Anyone knowing COLOMA would not also need BAL on each side.

7. The existence of the crucible in which this piece was allegedly cast would "cast" doubt on the 1850 origin because the chances of the identical crucible being preserved would be minimal.

We are sorry not to be able to give you a stronger specific opinion, but we are lacking so many facts. We can only say that we have little confidence in the piece being genuine. If it is not genuine we would guess that it was sold at a nominal cost as a setup to sell the second piece which was supposed to accompany it. If you know or can learn any more about the piece please let us know.

You indicated you might display it at the Philadelphia A.N.A. I would not do so as it might be seized and held by the government as an unlicensed gold bar (whether good or bad) as other purported pioneer pieces have been.

We will continue to study it and if you want it back at any time just advise us.

We appreciate your confidence in us in asking for our opinion and we hope we have been of service.

Kindest personal regards and respect,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

By _____
Eric P. Newman, President

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Dan Brown's Coin Shop, Inc.

Professional Numismatists

Feb. 8, 1972

PHONE 303 244-7222
1532 BROADWAY
DENVER, COLORADO 80202

Mr. Eric Newman
6450 Cecil Ave.
St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Eric:

Several years ago I believe that you did some research on my Colombo ingot and were going to let me know what you came up with, but I have never heard from you regarding it.

Do you think that you could reach back into your files and let me know what your thoughts were on the ingot. I am anticipating bringing it to light before too long and would like to know your thoughts in regards to it.

Hope all is well with you there, as things are with us here. I will be looking forward to seeing you in August.

Cordially yours,

Dan

DB/lk

DAN BROWN
ANA LIFE MEMBER NO. 215
MEMBER PNG NO. 2

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DON BROWN
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ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

February 28, 1972

Mr. Dan Brown
Dan Brown's Coin Shop, Inc.
1532 Broadway
Denver, Colorado 80202

Dear Dan:

In your letter of February 8, 1972 you indicate that you never heard from us with respect to your Coloma ingot.

We wrote you a four page opinion on April 23, 1969 and we are enclosing herewith a photocopy in the event you did not receive it or do not recall it.

Since that date we have more reason to believe that the number and letter punches (various sizes) of the United States Mint at Philadelphia came into private hands and were used in connection with artificial Pioneer gold items.

You will note that the Red Book has even eliminated the listing of the Parsons $20 bar.

If you have any further information as to the source of the Coloma piece it should be sent to us for further consideration.

My kindest personal regards to you, your wife, and your family.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

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Dan Brown's Coin Shop, Inc.

Professional Numismatists

PHONE 303 244-7222
1532 BROADWAY
DENVER, COLORADO 80202

March 3, 1972

Mr Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Ave.
St. Louis, Mo. 63105

Dear Eric:

Thank you very much for your nice letter of Feb. 28th, also the copies of your previous letter of April 23, 1969.

Upon checking back in my records I do find that you sent me your resume in regards to the Coloma Ingot. Sorry I had forgotten all about it, filed it and just recently was wondering what had happened. So, now this brings me back up-to-date.

I have no further information as to the source of the Coloma piece. I have asked Kenyon Painter for any information he might have, but he is out of town at the present time. By the way, I notice one little item that I'd like to clear up. The Japannese gentleman who sold this piece to me traded it at gold value -- which he could have received from the Mint. He did not try to make any profit on the piece. Erroneously you have it that it was $100.00 above the price of gold; and it was in trade for other coins. So, actually my cost was below the gold cost. In other words: Nobody was trying to make a profit on it until I sold it to Mr. Painter, and then his re-selling it back to me.

I personally think it to be a genuine item. Nobody tried to make money on it as mentioned, and definitely it was made a great many years ago before such skull-duggery became prevelant. Just again as a matter of interest: This was dated in 1849 which I think it was. Who ever made it knew that people in other parts of the world did not know where Coloma was; hence his adding "Cal" on each side as per item 6.

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Again thank you for your thoughts. Wish I could find out more about it, but will keep trying. If anything concrete should show up I will be glad to work with you accordingly. I appreciate what you have done though.

Very cordially yours,

Dan

DB/dq

March 20, 1972

Mr. Dan Brown
1532 Broadway
Denver, Colo. 80202

Dear Dan:

Your letter of March 3, 1972 is certainly proof of your faith in humanity.

I would be surprised if Kenyon Painter will give any opinion at all. If he does, I feel he will not support genuineness.

As to the casual cash sale to you for less than gold value by the Japanese gentlemen, this might have been a build up for the second piece which was mentioned to you.

You seem to think skull duggery on Pioneer Gold began recently. My feeling is that the horror had already begun by 1952.

I'll look forward to what others think and what you do.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

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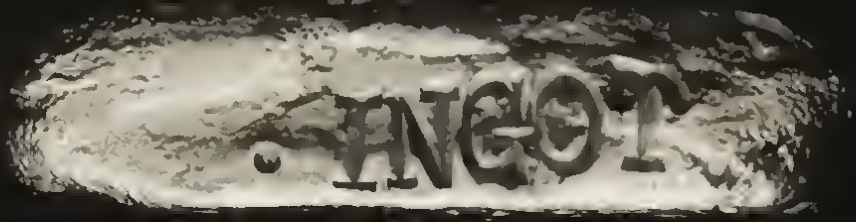
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